



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region

Montana Area Office

P.O. Box 30137

Billings, Montana 59107-0137



IN REPLY REFER TO: MT-450

June 1, 2015

## **FAXOGRAM: Water Order Change**

To: Chief, Power Supply and Billing Division, WAPA, Watertown, South Dakota  
Attention: F-6001  
Chief, Power Dispatching Branch, WAPA, Loveland, Colorado  
Attention: J-4120  
Facilities Manager, Hardin, Montana  
Attention: MT-300: Tom Tauscher  
Project Manager, Mills, Wyoming  
Attention: WY-4000, WY-4100, WY-6040  
Assistant Superintendent, National Park Service, Lovell, Wyoming  
Attention: Valerie Newman

From: Reservoir and River Operations, Billings, Montana /s/ Tim H. Felchle

Subject: **Yellowtail Water Release Order - BHR No. 15-41**

### **CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:**

Elevation: 3635.57; Storage: 967,936 acre-feet; River Release: 7,000 cfs; Inflow: 12,670 cfs;

### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Stream flows in the Bighorn River Basin continue to remain high, prompting releases to be increased at Buffalo Bill Reservoir. To slow the rate of fill of storage in Bighorn Lake, the following operations are required at Yellowtail Dam and Powerplant and Yellowtail Afterbay Dam.

### **YELLOWTAIL TURBINE RELEASE:**

**At 1300 hour on Monday, June 1, 2015:**

*Maintain average daily turbine release at 4,830 cfs ( $\approx$  3,480 MW-Hours/day using 33.3 cfs/mw).*

**At 2000 hour on Monday, June 1, 2015:**

*Maintain average daily turbine release at 4,830 cfs ( $\approx$  3,480 MW-Hours/day using 33.3 cfs/mw).*

**Limit turbine release to 3-unit capacity.**

### **YELLOWTAIL BYPASS RELEASE:**

**At 1300 hour on Monday, June 1, 2015:**

*Increase release through the spillway gates to  $\approx$  3,000 cfs.*

**At 2000 hour on Monday, June 1, 2015:**

*Increase release through the spillway gates to  $\approx$  4,000 cfs.*

### **AFTERBAY RELEASE AND OPERATION:**

**At 1300 hour on Monday, June 1, 2015:**

*Maintain diversion to Bighorn Canal at 325 cfs (gage height = 72.66 with a 0.0 ft shift).*

*Increase river release to 7,575 cfs (gage height = 62.84 with a 0.0 ft shift).*

*Increase total release from the Afterbay to 7,900 cfs*

**At 2000 hour on Monday, June 1, 2015:**

*Maintain diversion to Bighorn Canal at 325 cfs (gage height = 72.66 with a 0.0 ft shift).*

*Increase river release to 8,575 cfs (gage height = 63.24 with a 0.0 ft shift).*

*Increase total release from the Afterbay to 8,900 cfs*